

**CITY OF GREENBELT
City Clerk's Office
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770**

Memorandum

Date: October 27, 2006
To: Michael McLaughlin
Fr: Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk
RE: Downsizing PRAB

There was discussion at the Council work session with the advisory group chairs about whether PRAB would be more workable if it were leaner and meaner. Lola Skolnik had suggested in the past that this might be worth considering, and said she would raise the question with the board.

They discussed this at their October meeting. As indicated in the draft minutes, they unanimously agreed to recommend reducing the number to 10. I asked Hank Irving if they really had some reason for wanting to maintain an even number, since there are not designated appointees for the "park" and "recreation" sides. He said he thought they said 12 because that is the number they currently have (there are two vacancies) but that nine would probably be the preferred number.

Hank asked if Council needed a formal report on this or whether the minutes would do. I said I thought the minutes would do, since there's not much more to the story.

The number of members on PRAB is established in Chapter 12 of the City Code and would need to be changed by ordinance. If Council wants to change the size to 12, we could do that right away. If Council prefers nine, I'd suggest that we just wait for attrition to reduce the number by one more and then introduce the ordinance. Regardless, I'll stop advertising that there are vacancies on PRAB until we can get direction from Council.

I think the timing for reducing PRAB is probably good. I am concerned that if we add another board/committee of significant size for the Forest Preserve, we may have trouble recruiting enough people to fill that group, REAC, PRAB, and ACT, since there is a lot of overlap in the pools of interested volunteers for those groups.

Attachment: October 6, 2006 draft PRAB minutes